

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 557

Strongly condemning the United Nations Human Rights Council for ignoring severe human rights abuses in various countries, while choosing to unfairly target Israel by including it as the only country permanently placed on the Council's agenda.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 19, 2007

Mr. CAMPBELL of California (for himself, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. AKIN, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GOODE, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. JORDAN of Ohio, Mr. KIRK, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LINDER, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. POE, Mr. PORTER, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. RENZI, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. SALI, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. TERRY, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. BARTON of Texas) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Strongly condemning the United Nations Human Rights Council for ignoring severe human rights abuses in various countries, while choosing to unfairly target Israel

by including it as the only country permanently placed on the Council's agenda.

Whereas Article II of Chapter I of the United Nations Charter states that “[t]he Organization is based on the principles of sovereign equality of all its members”;

Whereas the former United Nations Human Rights Commission was widely discredited for its incessant attacks against Israel and for granting membership to Cuba, Zimbabwe, China, Saudi Arabia, and other countries that were notorious human rights violators;

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to adopt a resolution establishing the Human Rights Council, stating that “members elected to the Council shall uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights”;

Whereas the resolution also stated that “the Council shall be responsible for promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind and in a fair and equal manner”;

Whereas China, Cuba, and Saudi Arabia are members of the Human Rights Council;

Whereas in the past year that the United Nations Human Rights Council has been in existence, the Council has held four special sessions to address pressing human rights situations;

Whereas of those four sessions, three were condemning Israel for their possible human right abuses in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and in Lebanon, and the fourth special session was a non-condemnatory expression of “concern” regarding the situation in Darfur, Sudan;

Whereas the Human Rights Council has failed to adequately address a number of other pressing human rights concerns throughout the world;

Whereas the 2006 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices of the Department of State notes that, with respect to Iran, “the government’s poor human rights record worsened . . . and it continued to commit numerous, serious abuses”;

Whereas, between June 10 and 15, 2007, Hamas-armed gunman violently took over the Gaza Strip, executing men, women, and children;

Whereas, on June 19, 2007, a Department of State spokesperson specifically identified Burma, Cuba, North Korea, Zimbabwe, and Belarus as countries that merit consideration by the United Nations Human Rights Council due to their “serious human rights violations”;

Whereas during its fifth session, the Human Rights Council voted to make Israel the only country permanently included on its agenda; and

Whereas United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon said he was “disappointed at the Council’s decision to single out only one specific regional item, given the range and scope of allegations of human rights violations throughout the world”: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) strongly condemns the United Nations
- 3 Human Rights Council for ignoring severe human
- 4 rights abuses in other countries, while choosing to
- 5 unfairly target Israel;

1 (2) strongly urges the Council to remove Israel
2 from its permanent agenda;

3 (3) strongly urges the Council to hold special
4 sessions to address other countries where human
5 rights abuses are being committed, adopt real re-
6 form as was intended for the Council when it re-
7 placed the United Nations Commission on Human
8 Rights, and reaffirm the principle of human dignity
9 consistent with the original intent envisioned at the
10 Council's establishment;

11 (4) strongly urges the United States to make
12 every effort in the General Assembly to ensure that
13 the Council lives up to its mission to protect human
14 rights around the world, in accordance with United
15 Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/251 estab-
16 lishing the Council; and

17 (5) strongly urges the United States to work
18 with the United Nations General Assembly to ensure
19 that only countries who have a well-established com-
20 mitment to protecting human rights are chosen to
21 serve on the Council.

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